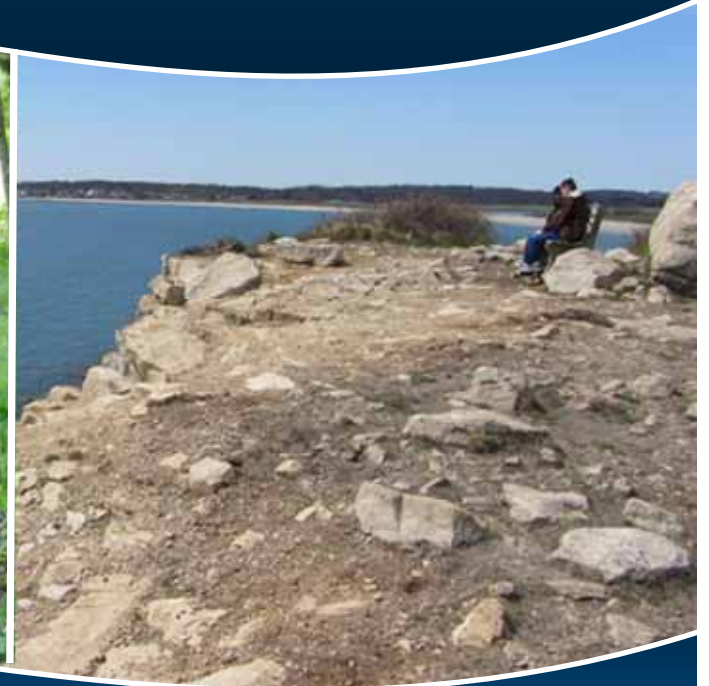
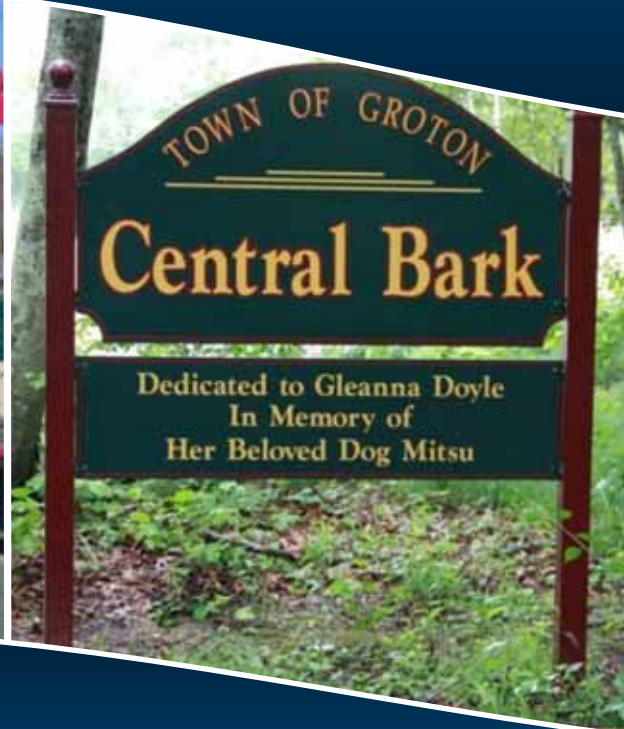


2013 Town of Groton Plan of Conservation & Development & Municipal Coastal Plan Parks and Open Space

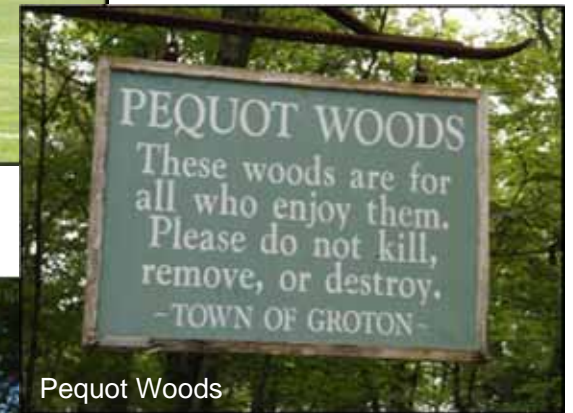


August, 2013

Introduction

The quality, quantity, and variety of parks and open spaces are important assets for Groton.

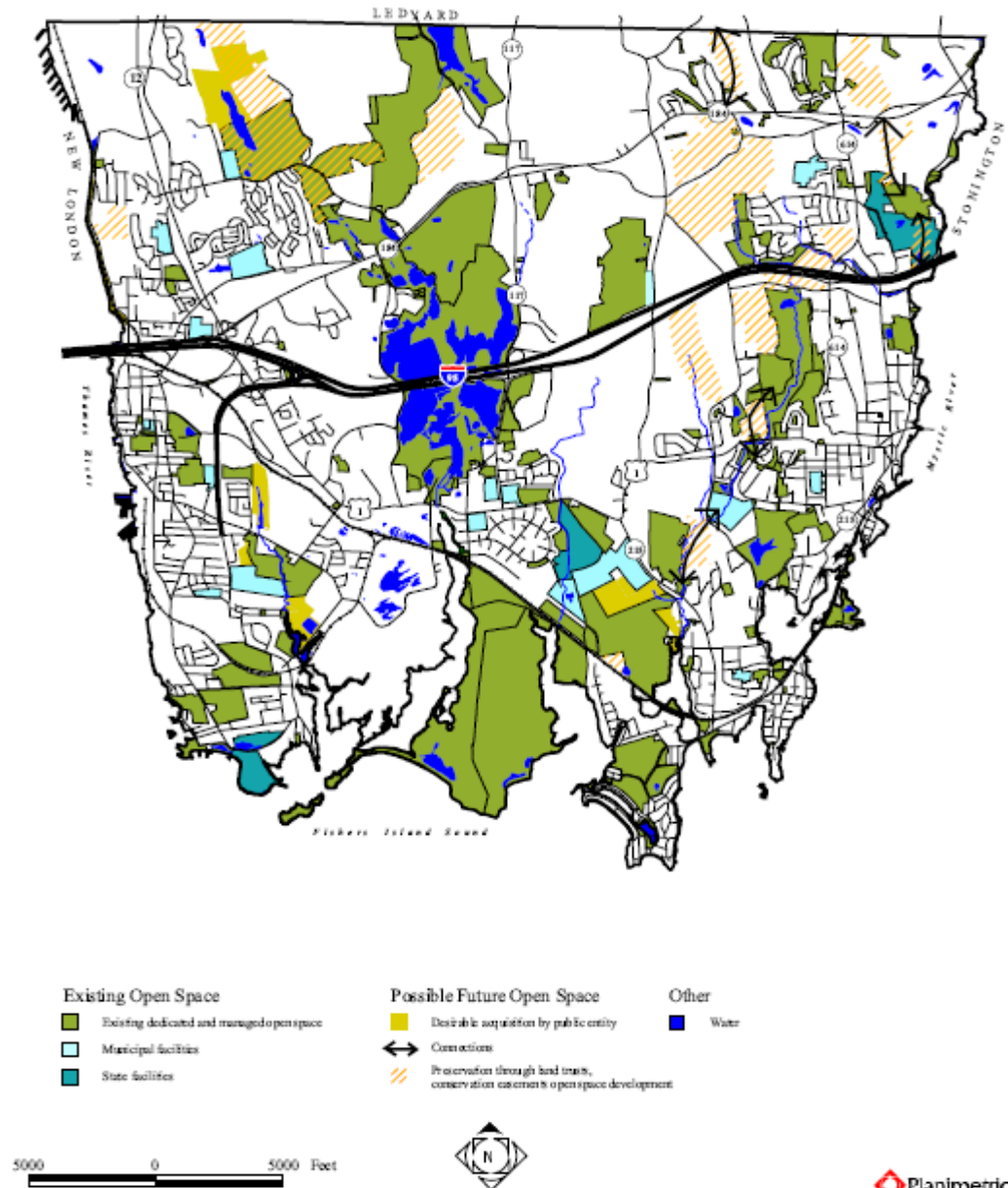
- Ecological benefits
- Community Character
- Economic benefits
- Health benefits



2002 POCD Future Open Space Plan

- Mapped existing open space
- Possible Future Open Space shown as:
 - Desirable acquisition by public entity
 - Connections
 - Preservation through land trusts, easements, open space development

Possible Future Open Space Plan Town of Groton, CT



Update to 2002 POCD - Definitions

Dedicated Open Space: All land permanently preserved

- State Parks
- Municipal Organizations
- Land Trusts



Update to 2002 POCD - Definitions

Managed Open Space: Land used or preserved for purposes other than open space, but provides some open space characteristics.

- Golf courses
- Cemeteries
- YMCA Land
- Beaches



Shennecosset Golf Course

Update to 2002 POCD - Definitions

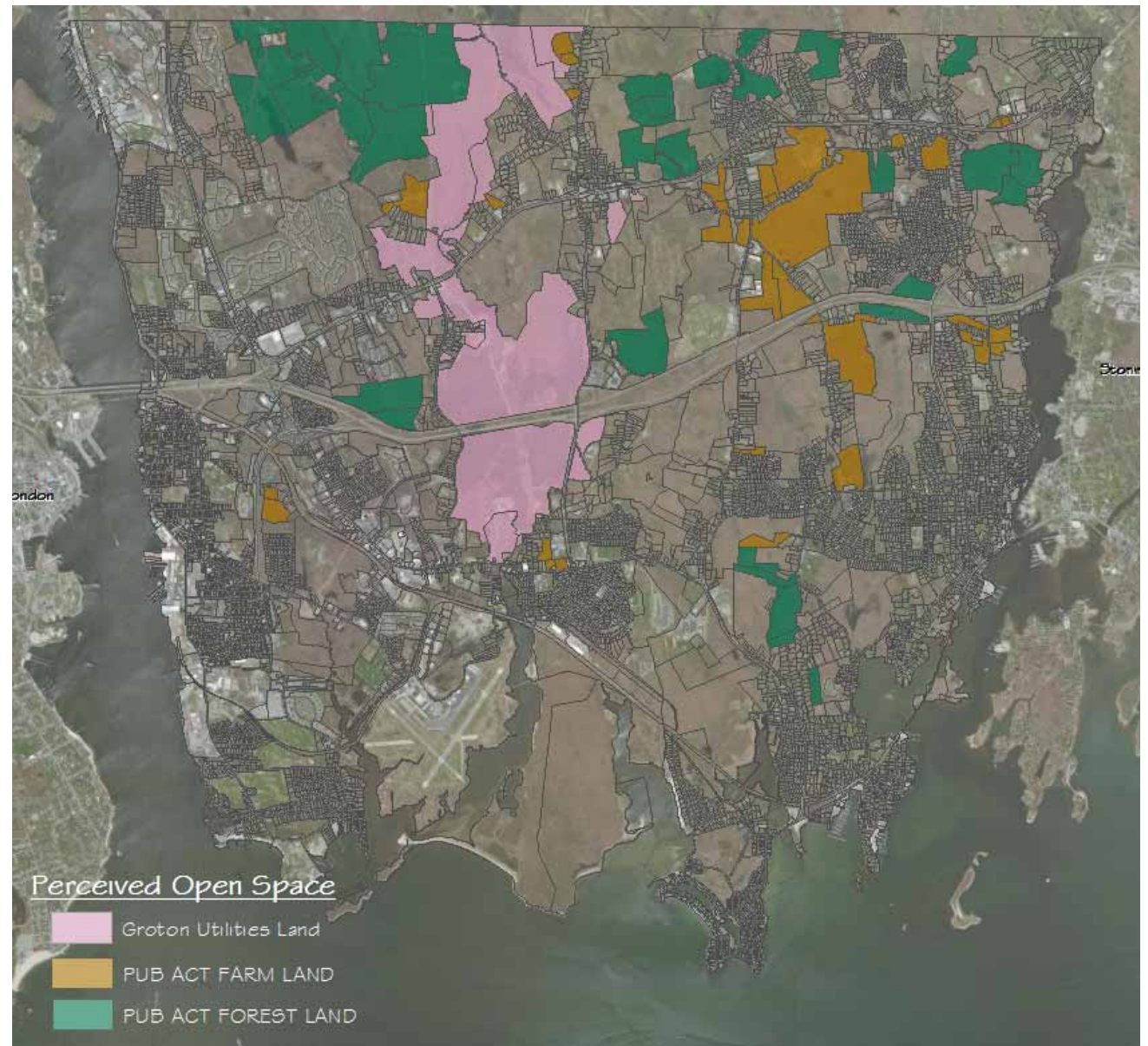
Residual Land at
Public Facilities:
Some land on
public facilities
used for open
space or
recreation



Update to 2002 POCD - Definitions

Perceived Open Space: Not protected for open space, nor open to the public, but contributes to overall fabric of Groton's open space

- Groton Utilities Land
- PA 490 Land



Active and Passive Open Space

Residents consider Open Space as...



Active



or

Passive

Active Open Space

- Active open space can be used for recreation.
- Active recreational facilities are areas that include fields, basketball and tennis courts, skateboard parks, and playscapes.
- Changes since 2002:
 - New dog park
 - Accessible features at the Tercentennial Legacy Playground
 - Fitch baseball field improvements
 - Playscapes in a number of new open space parcels acquired through subdivision process.



Active Recreation – Table of Facilities

Groton Parks and Open Space Inventory	
ACTIVE OPEN SPACE	
	Acres
<i>City-Owned</i>	<i>55.1</i>
<i>Town-Owned</i>	<i>599.2</i>
<i>Parks at Schools</i>	<i>59.8</i>
<i>State-Owned</i>	<i>65.5</i>
<i>Privately Owned</i>	<i>0.5</i>
<i>Total Active Recreation Acres:</i>	<i>780.1</i>

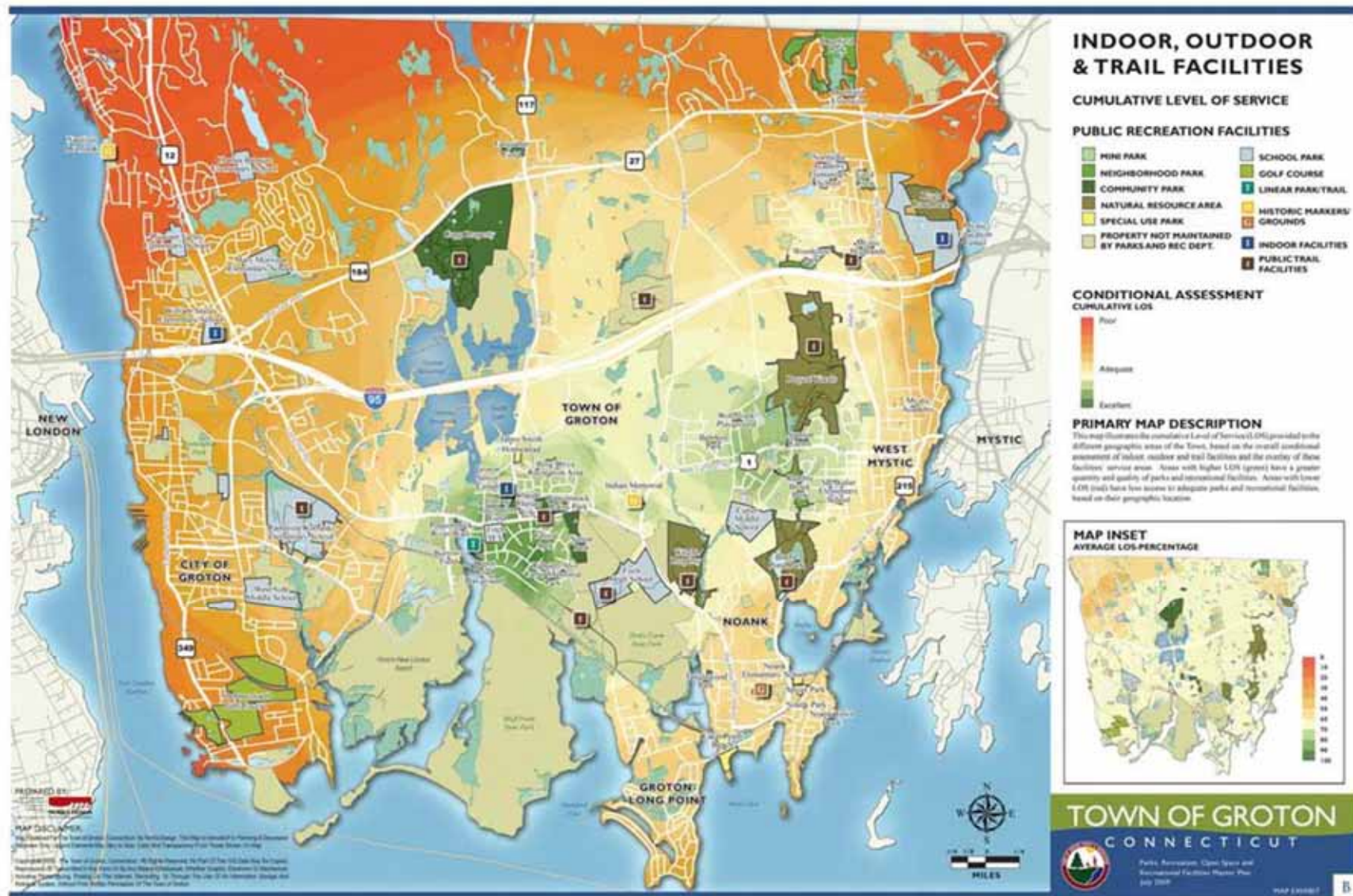
*Number of acres derived from GIS analysis of parcels and discussion with Town staff.
Totals are subject to change with additional map revisions.*

Active Recreation – 2009 Master Plan

2009 Parks and Recreation Master Plan focused on active recreation levels of service

- Above recommended levels of service for acreage per 1,000 population, as well as neighborhood and community parks
- Level of service for small pocket parks is below recommended levels
- Need for development of programmed space – athletic fields, courts and playgrounds

Active Recreation – 2009 Master Plan



Passive Open Space

- Passive open space can provide recreational facilities that include low impact recreation such as hiking with minimal development or improvements.
- Also includes natural conservation areas.

Groton Parks and Open Space Inventory

PASSIVE OPEN SPACE

	<i>Acres</i>
<i>Town-Owned</i>	<i>427.7</i>
<i>State-Owned</i>	<i>1,030.2</i>
<i>Privately Owned</i>	<i>297.0</i>
<i>Total Passive Open Space Acres:</i>	<i>1,754.9</i>

*Number of acres derived from GIS analysis of parcels and discussion with Town staff.
Totals are subject to change with additional map revisions.*

Where We Are Today

- Dedicated Open Space includes all land that is permanently preserved as open space
- Managed Open Space includes land that is used or preserved for some purpose other than open space but that provides open space characteristics. Includes closed landfills and GLP conservation land.
- Residual Land at Public Facilities includes some land on public facilities that is used for open space or recreation.

Where We Are Today

Existing Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

Open Space by Type

Dedicated Open Space

- Municipal Dedicated Open Space
- State Dedicated Open Space
- Private Land Trust Dedicated Open Space

Managed Open Space

- Public Managed Open Space
- Private Managed Open Space
- Groton Utilities Land
- Cemetery
- Golf Course

Facilities

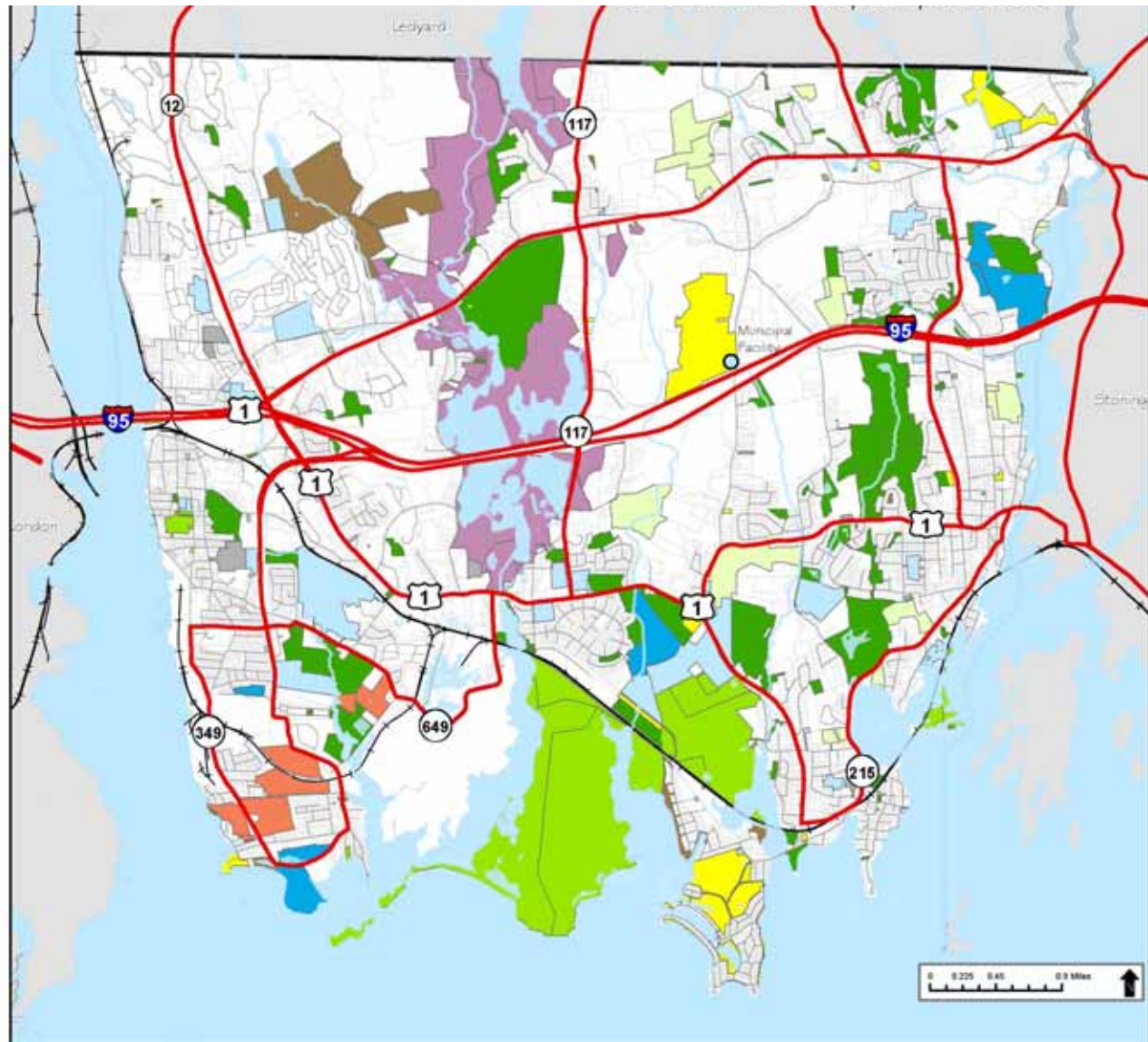
- Municipal Facilities
- State Facilities

Source:

- Parks, Street Centerlines
- Town of Groton GIS Dept.
- BaseMap Data: CT DEP Map & Geographic Information Center (2012)
- Some digitization from Town of Groton 2000 POCD

This map was developed for use as a planning document. Delineations may not be exact.

August 2013



Where We Are Today

For the purposes of the Plan of Conservation & Development, open space calculation is based on land that is preserved or dedicated to open space uses.

Parks and Open Space Category	2012 POCD			2002 POCD			Change in Open Space
	Total Area in Acres	Facilities (est.)	Open Space	Total Area in Acres	Facilities (est.)	Open Space	
Dedicated Open Space	2,918.4	0.0	2,918.4	2,311	0	2,311	607.4
<i>Municipal Dedicated Open Space</i>	1,436.6			1,198			
<i>State Dedicated Open Space</i>	1,123.2			1,020			
<i>Private Land Trust Dedicated Open Space</i>	358.5			93			
Managed Open Space	2,304.0	221.3	2,082.7	2,075	197	1,878	204.7
<i>Public Managed Open Space</i>	383.4			302			
<i>Private Managed Open Space</i>	283.3			258			
<i>Groton Utilities Land</i>	1,416.0			1,318			
<i>Class 1 Utility Land</i>	817.2						
<i>Class 2 Utility Land</i>	448.8						
<i>Class 3 Utility Land</i>	150.0						
<i>Cemeteries</i>	66.0	66.0		63	63		
<i>Golf Courses</i>	155.3	155.3		134	134		
Facilities*	791.7	127.1	509.1	578	237	341	168.1
<i>Municipal Facilities</i>	546.8			336	164		
<i>Schools</i>	391.3	64.8					
<i>Parks /Open Space at Schools</i>	326.5		326.5				
<i>State Facilities</i>	244.9	62.3		242	73		
<i>**Parks/Open Space at State Schools</i>	182.6		182.6				
Total Parks and Open Space	6,014.1	348.4	5,510.1	4,964	434	4,530	980.1

16.5%
of total
acreage

2002 POCD info from 2002 Groton POCD Workbook, Booklet #11 p.1 and 2

*Other Facilities included in this section are the Senior Center, Town Hall Annex, Police and Fire services, libraries, and Dept. of Public Works.

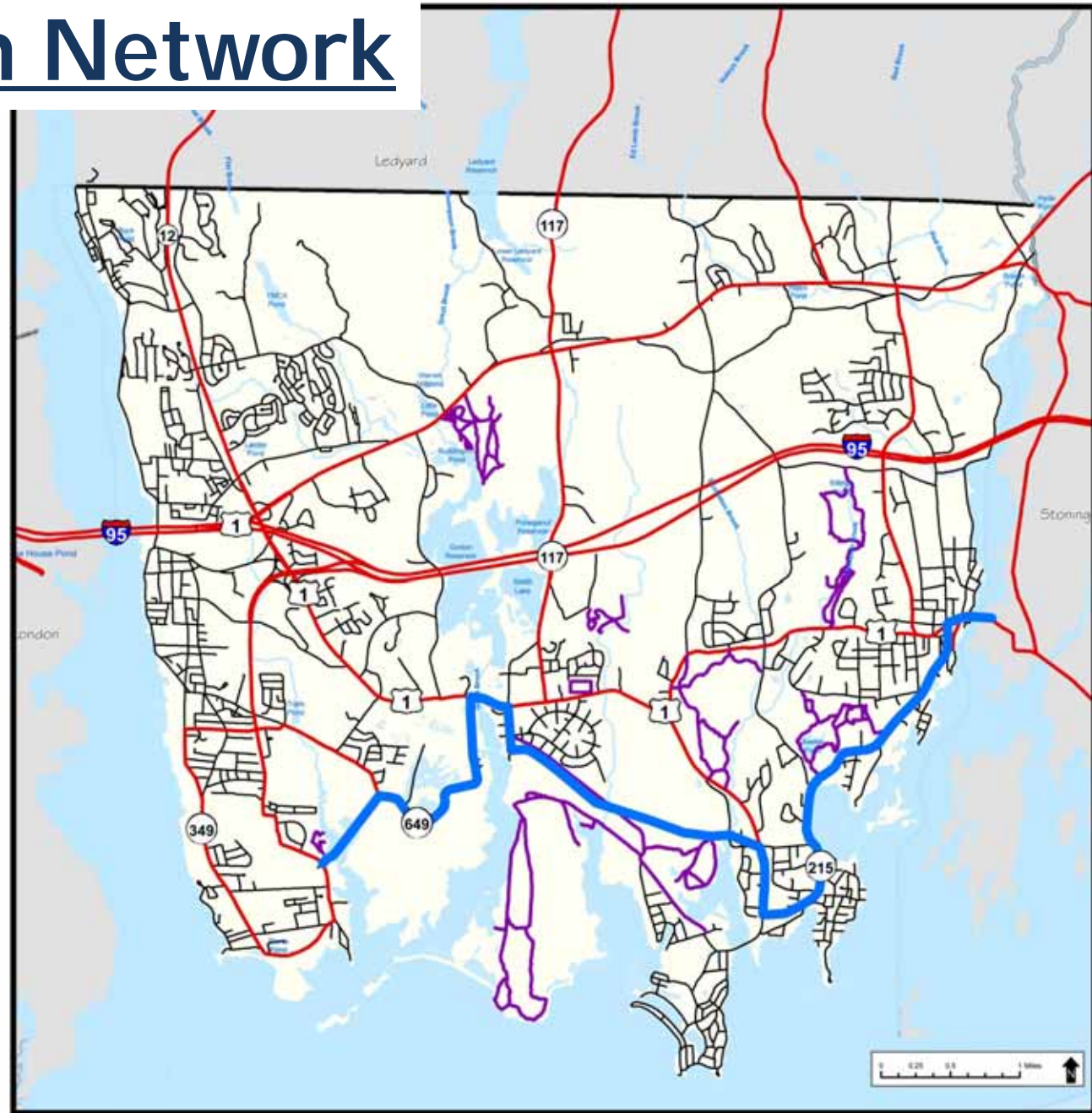
** UConn Avery Point, Ella T. Grasso Technical HS, and Mystic Oral School

Pedestrian Network

Existing Trails and Bike Routes

Legend

- State Roads
- Local Roads
- Established Bikeway
- Recreation Trails



Pedestrian Network

- Groton Bicycle, Pedestrian, & Trails Master Plan (2005) goals:
 - Interconnect neighborhoods
 - Develop commuter routes
 - Develop rec. trails that access open space
 - Build facilities that are safe and attractive
- Tri-Town Trail Proposal
 - 2009 committee plan recommended region's first multi-use recreational trail from Bluff Point to Preston Community Park.
 - City of Groton does not allow public access to Groton Utilities Reservoir system.




Perceived Open Space

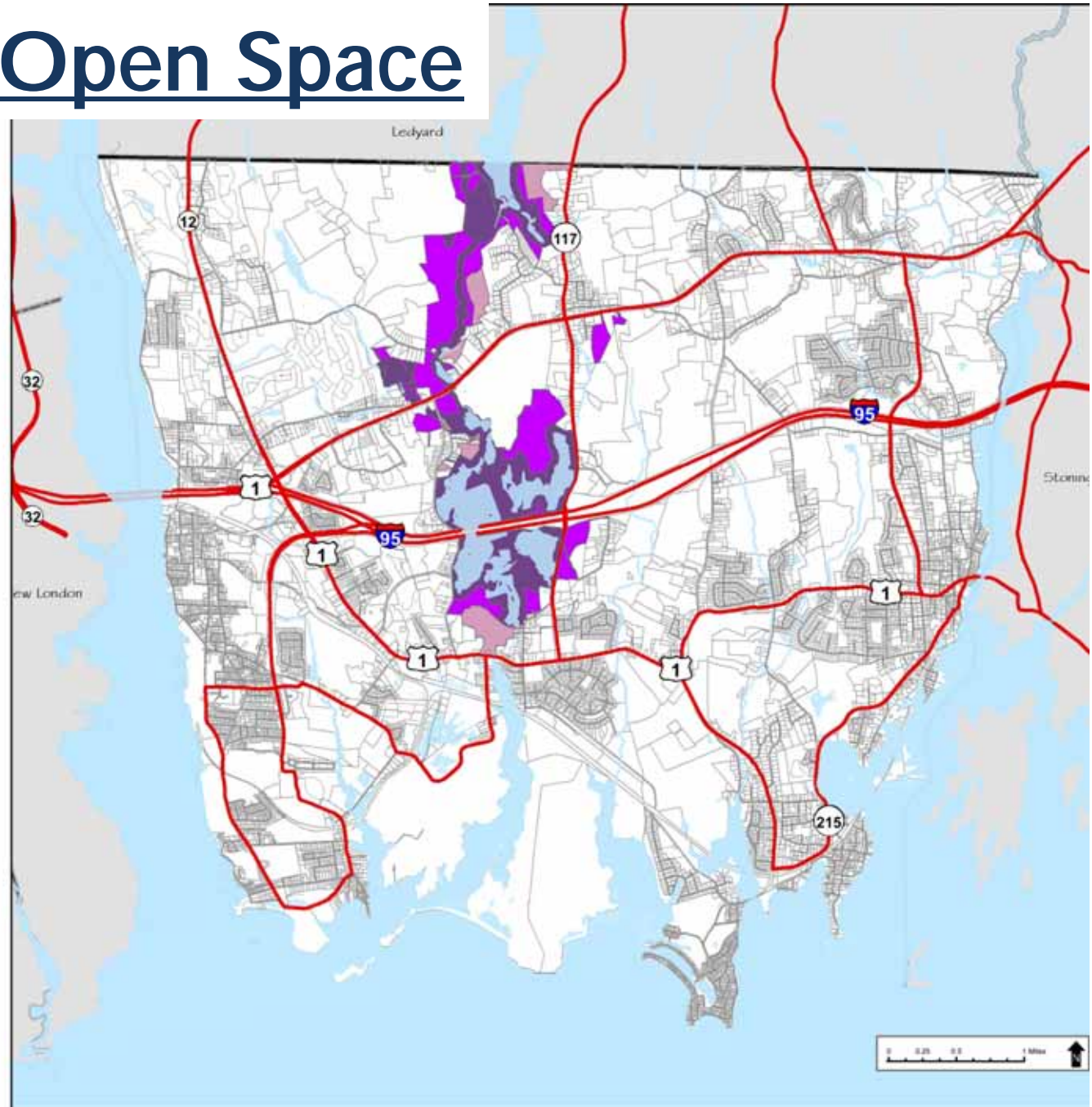
- Groton Public Utility Watersheds
 - Class I (817 acres) and II (448 acres) lands are most protected, must be preserved for reservoir water quality
 - Class III lands (150 acres) can be sold or developed, unless conservation easements preclude development
 - No GPU lands are currently publicly accessible
- PA 490 Farm, Forest, and Open Space Land
 - Owners retain right to sell, not necessarily publicly accessible (2,108 acres)
- Parks at Schools
 - About 60 acres, including closed facilities

Perceived Open Space

Groton Public
Utilities Land

Legend

-  Class I Land
-  Class II Land
-  Class III Land



Source:
* Parcel, Street Centerline
Town of Groton GIS Dept.
* Base Map Data: CT DEEP Map &
Geographic Information Center (2012)
* Some digitization from
Town of Groton 2002 POCD

This map was developed for use
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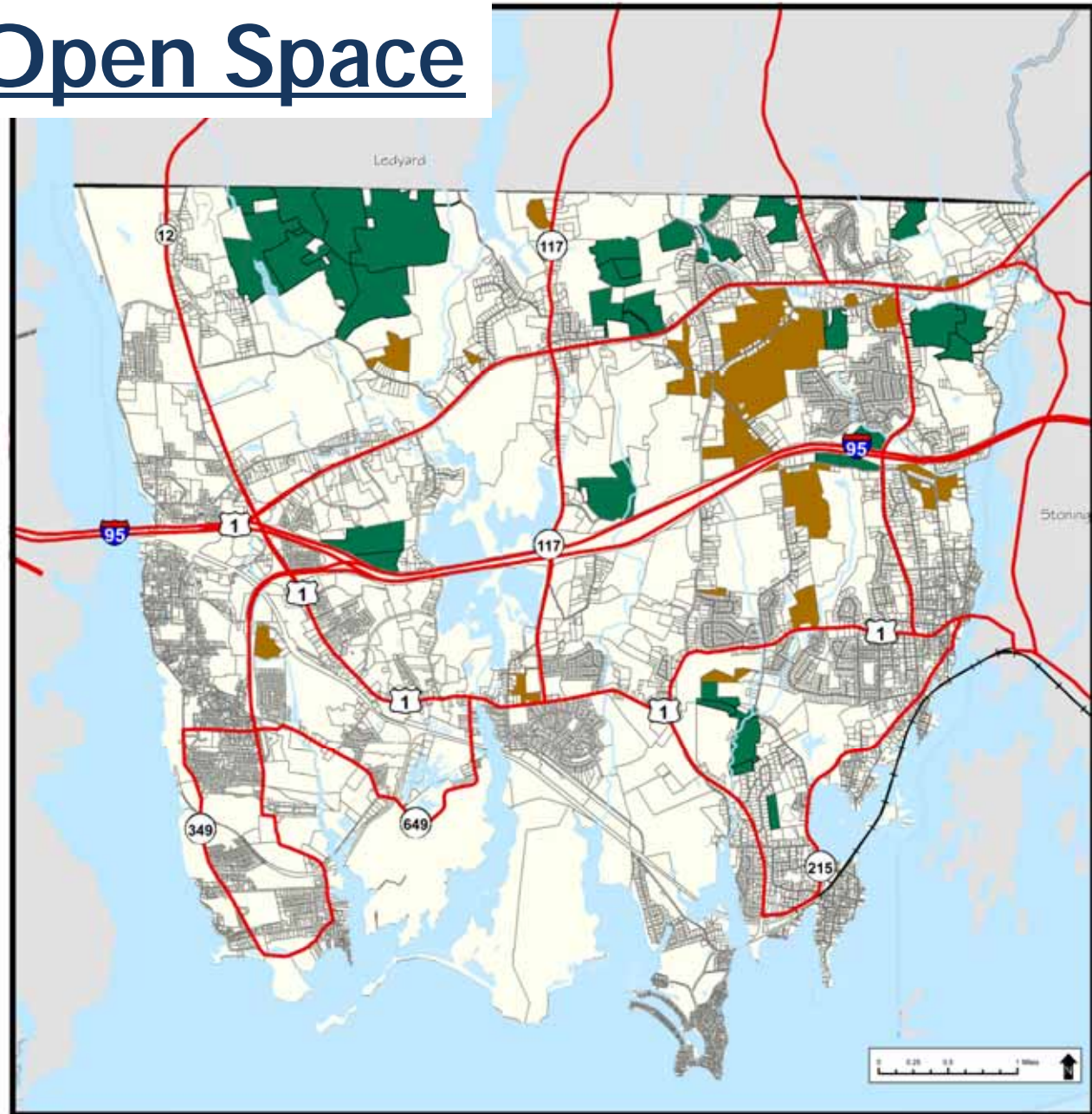
 MILONE & MACBROOM

Perceived Open Space

Existing Public Act
490 Lands

Legend

- Farm Land
■ Forest Land



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 MILONE & MACBROOM

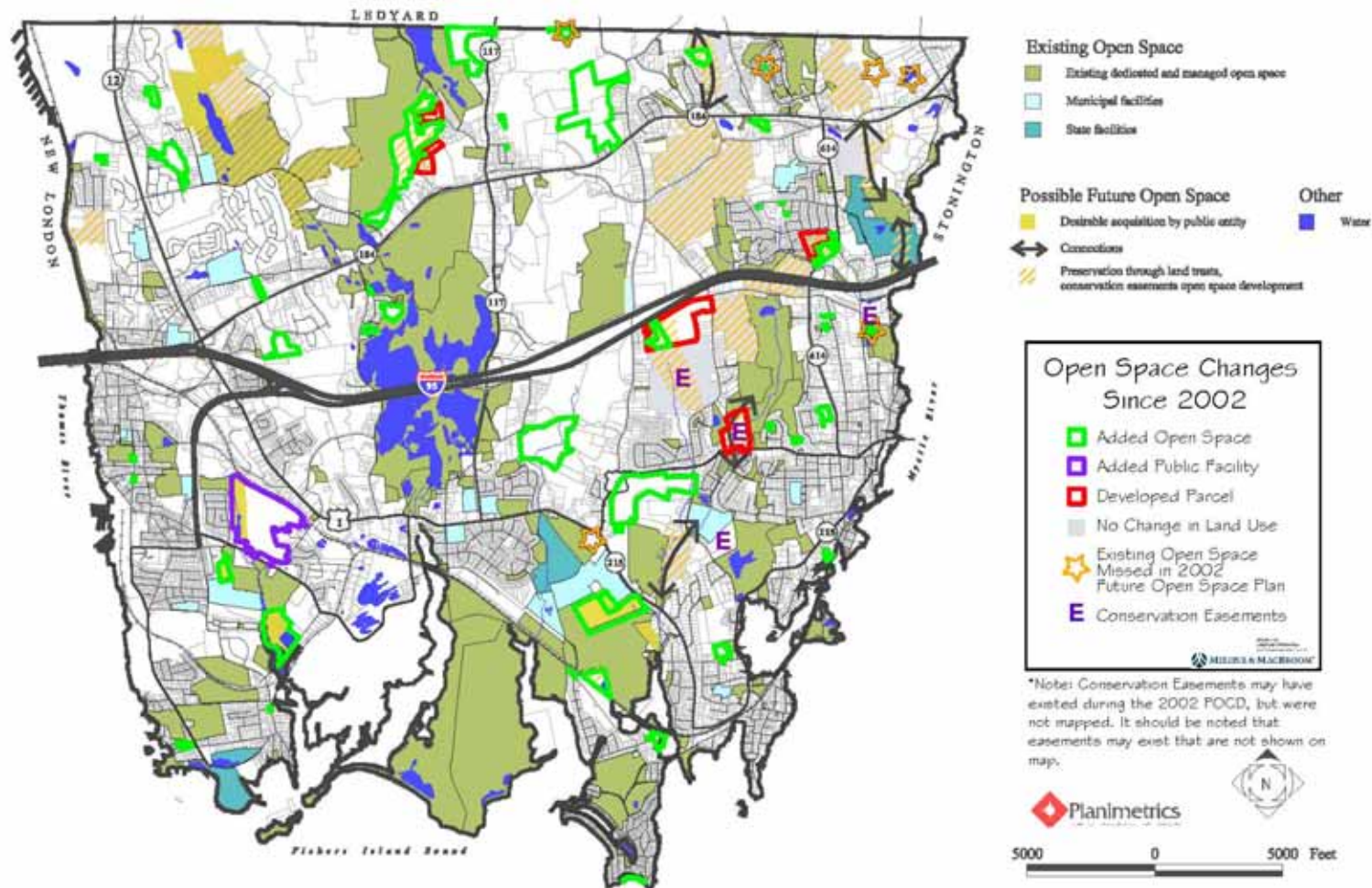
Review of Open Space Plan from POCD

What Has Changed:

Desired Parcel Preservation and Development Since 2002 POCD

Possible Future Open Space Plan (2002 POCD)

Town of Groton, CT



Review of Open Space Plan from POCD

Key Additions Include:

- Candlewood Ridge (2013, GOSA) – 91 ac
- Sheep Farm (2010, GOSA) – 62.75 ac
- Merritt Property (2008, GOSA) – 76 ac
- Spicer Property (2012) – 29.1 ac
- Several Open Space Developments
- State Addition to Haley Farm – 55.8 ac
- Avalonia Land Conservancy near Ledyard – 7.73 ac



Candlewood Ridge, by GOSA

Planned Projects – Facilities

Groton's 2013 Capital Improvement Plan identified for the next 5 years:

- **Farquar Park basketball courts resurfacing**
- **Additional fields on Merritt Property**
- **Improvements to Sutton Park**
- **Update Master Plan for Copp Property**
- **Additional athletic fields**
- **Master Plan for Esker Point Beach**

Planned Projects – Other

Other CIP Projects include:

- Trail Improvements Program
- Open Space Acquisition and Development funds
 - Conservation Commission has developed criteria to designate land worthy of protection
- Golf Course Improvement Plan
- Park Improvement Plan – bringing existing facilities up to ADA standards

Discussion